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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Human Rights situation in Bahrain Persisting violations and impunity

The human rights situation in Bahrain is still bad because of the increasing violations against citizens who call for political change and seek to establish a multi democratic society.
Local and international human rights centers recognize that there is a persisting of the violations implemented by the security authorities and the violation of treaties and international conventions after the issuance of the international convention "Bassiouni's report" and Reporters of the human rights council in Geneva.

First: the persisting of outlaw killings and arbitrary executions.
The activists of the human rights defence follow up the increasing cases of outlaw killings or what is called in Bahrain the arbitrary executions without trial and it falls within the violations of the right to live committed by security authorities.
The excessive use of force by officials responsible of law enforcement represents an important factor in death cases and the right to live, which Bassiouni's report referred to as using a power incompatible with the standards of the absolute necessity and proportionality.

The insistence of the authorities to use the shotgun (Lead fission) internationally banned, in dealing with the demonstrators, caused an increase in the incidence of execution without a court.

The reports issued by the local human rights bodies as Bahrain Forum of Human Rights and SALAM Organizations, recorded the execution without trial cases which reached 120 cases, 20 of them lost their lives because of using the banned shotgun bullets in which the latest case was the child Mohamed El Sayed Mohsen (14 years) from Setrah region, who was injured by fission bullets on Wednesday 21 May 2014 and before him the citizen Abdul Aziz Al Abbar who was killed with a shotgun bullet on 23 February 2014 from Al-Diraz region and there was more than 300 people who were injured with the shotgun bullets until 2013.

It should be noted that the continuance of impunity as a an adopted policy in Bahrain is a key factor to the sustainability of violating the right to life and encouraging them, in which the Bahraini authorities are still not serious adoption of a methodology based on real accountability for those involved in cases of death and it was also noticed that the Bahraini judicial authority is decreasing sentences against police men from seven years to six months or even giving them acquittal in some torture cases.

Second: the violation of religious freedom warns of religious persecution.

The religious freedom situation in Bahrain registered a serious setback after the events of Al- Lualua Roundabout in 2011 and based on the monitoring of Bahrain Center of Human Rights and Al- Wefaq Association, and the formal procedures issued by authorities, continued in suppression of religious freedom of the Shiite community members in their beliefs, personalities and religious institutions, and many of the violations in this area have been registered starting with the decision of disintegrating the Scholar Islamic Council which is the highest Shiite body with a judicial sentence issued on 29th of January 2014, and then deporting the Shiite cleric Sheikh Hussein Najati the representative of Mr. Al-Sistani the High religious authority of the Shiites forcibly outside his homeland on 23rd of April 2014. The Interior Ministry issued yesterday a statement in which it disclosed the matter of deportation which is illegal reasons and the security authorities summoned the President of the Council Secular Sheikh Majid Al- Mashaal for criminal investigations due to his participation in the solidarity sit-in which is a violation of the freedom of expression right.

Also the Ministry of Justice and the Islamic Affairs stressed on the religious statements of the Shiite community which advocates the political expression cases, such as preventing the Shiite cleric Mr. Kamel Al- Hashemy of delivering speeches in Ali bin Jamad mosque and filed a lawsuit later against him in the freedom of expression issue.
These measures led the Special Reporters of the freedom of belief to issue a statement that considered the taken procedures against Sheikh Najati by exiling him is a persecution against the Shiite community.

Third: the violations related to persisting torture in detention places.

The security authorities in Bahrain are still adopting torture with various patterns against political detainees during investigations a..d extracting confessions, and Bassiouni's report registered that 5 citizens lost their lives due to torture in prisons without the authority submitting those directly responsible of these incidents to accountability and justice.

In April 2014 (17) cases of torture or cruel treatment were registered.

Bahrain continues to refuse receiving the UN Special Reporters on torture and other cruel, inhumane or insulting treatment Mr. Ekhwan Mandez, to Bahrain to view the files of torture and victims.

Also Bahrain Forum of Human Rights and SALAM Organization of Human Rights noted that the security authorities use torture even with people who are subjected to force disappearance in secret places.

The prohibition of torture is a peremptory norm of international law as a number of international and regional courts and local communities considered the prohibition of cruel, inhumane or insulting treatment a rule of international customary law, and the security authorities in Bahrain violate both rules.

Fourth: violations affecting freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

the security authorities in Bahrain is still putting tight restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, it entirely prevents the demonstration in the Manama, the capital, also prevented the procession of Al- Wefaq association opposition that was decided on Friday 23 May 2014 in addition that the Assembly Law still needs to be amended to comply with international law in the field of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.